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placed directly in a quantity of the solution, which should be at least equal in volume to the mass of algæ taken. They will keep in this way indefinitely. When it is desired to use the material it may be washed in several changes of water to which some antiseptic agent has been added or in a 10% solution of glycerine. For sectioning in paraffin the specimens are treated in the ordinary way with various grades of alcohol. The author also recommends certain special carmine stains.

H. M. R.

Sunstroke and Bacteria. — From *Natural Science* (May, 1898), we learn that Dr. Lugui Sambon claims to have shown that under the term sunstroke are included two entirely different things: that many reported cases are due only to syncope, and when these are eliminated there remains a thermic fever to be attributed to a specific organism. He shows that the disease possesses definite symptoms and has a definite geographical distribution. That heat is not the cause is evidenced by the fact that people in certain regions, or under artificial conditions, work in temperatures far higher than exist in places where sunstroke frequently occurs, without suffering from the disease. Thus, true sunstroke is absent from the dry plains of Colorado, as well as from the high central plateau of India, while it is common in the moister climate and lower temperatures of the Mississippi Valley and the Atlantic coast of America, as well as on the low-lying plain of the Ganges. It also frequently occurs with great fatality in hospitals. He compares the bacterium with that of tetanus, and considers that it lives in the soil and is carried into the system with dust, and there forms the toxic poison, which is the real cause of death.

PETROGRAPHY.

The Igneous Rocks of the Boston Basin are again the subject of petrographic study. White¹ finds among them granites, diorites, quartz-porphyrries, felsites, melaphyre, and diabases. The last two-named rocks occur as dikes. The melaphyre is an altered basalt, constituting a flow which is amygdaloidal at its upper surface. The quartz-porphyrries appear to be regarded as a peripheral phase of granite, and the felsites as a surface facies of the same rock. Both

¹ *Proc. Bost. Soc. of Nat. Hist.*, vol. xxviii, p. 117.

the porphyry and the felsite are called aporhyolites by the author, though he does not attempt to prove that their present features are due to the devitrification of an ancient glass. The granites comprise four types, distinguished as dioritic and hornblendic granites, granite and hornblendic diorite. Nearly all these rocks had already been described by earlier writers. White adds a few points of interest concerning them.

The Eruptive Rocks of Mexico. — Harrington¹ gives a *résumé* of an article by Ordoñez, in which are described briefly the eruptive rocks of Mexico. The precretaceous eruptives are principally granites, associated with sedimentary rocks, and sometimes with younger rhyolites and andesites. With the cretaceous age began a great series of eruptions whose products were granites, granulites, syenites, diorites and diabases, and the "greenstones" characteristic of the mining districts. Among these latter are andesites, green dacites, trachytes, rhyolites, labradorites, and basalts. The rhyolites of Chichindaro, of San Ildefonso, of Tula, of Hidalgo, and a few other places are sphemlitic. Some of the modern volcanoes erupt andesites, and others trachytes. Many of the trachytes contain olivine, and occasionally these rocks grade into typical basalts. Labradorites are also common lavas. They differ from basalts in containing but little, if any, olivine.

The Gneisses of Anglesey, England.² — The gneissic series of Anglesey, England, comprises plutonic rocks that have suffered crushing and shearing subsequent to their consolidation. The banded gneisses were formed from a complex of diorite and felsite, or from felsite whose secondary structure has been accentuated by the infiltration of dark-colored minerals along the cleavage planes. The normal gneisses of the district were formed from granite, diorite, or felsite. The hälleflinta, so frequently mentioned in the literature of the district, is a partially altered felsite.

Syenite Porphyries of the Lake Champlain District. — In the pre-Potsdam area of Clinton County, N. Y., Cushing³ finds a series of dikes, composed of a basic rock which is classed as syenite-porphyry. This rock consists of a micropertthitic intergrowth of albite and orthoclase, biotite, magnetite, hematite, hornblende, quartz, albite,

¹ *Journ. of Geol.*, vol. v, p. 466.

² *Quar. Journ. of Geol. Soc.*, vol. liii, p. 349, 1897.

³ *Bull. of Geol. Soc. of Amer.*, vol. ix, p. 239.